

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 17287 220346Z
ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 17287

FODAG

IO DIS ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: FAO, EINV
SUBJECT: FAO INVESTMENT CENTER

1. BAKER CALLED ON NEW DIRECTOR OF INVESTMENT CENTER FERNANDO (CEYLON) TO DISCUSS CENTER PLANS WITH RESPECT TO IFAD AND OFFER FOUR QUALIFIED U.S. CANDIDATES FOR DEPT. DIR. OF CENTER RECEIVED IN SEPT. 27 LETTER FROM HURT WHICH ARRIVED OCT 12. FERNANDO REPLIED WITH SOME EMBARRASSMENT THAT NOT ONLY HAD HIS OWN DEP. DIR. VACANCY BEEN FILLED (CLARK OF AUSTRALIA) BUT ALSO THAT OF BISHOP (UK DUE TO RETIRE DECEMBER 1. FACT OF BISHOP'S FULL INVOLVEMENT WITH FAO STUDY OF CGFPI HAD CAUSED HIM TO SEEK EARLY REPLACEMENT IN CONSULTATION THREE WEEKS AGO WITH IBRD WHICH "FUNDED" 75 PERCENT OF THAT PART OF PROGRAM". IBRD HAD RECOMMENDED ROCHAMBEAU (FRANCE) WHO NOW AT WORK (THOUGH NOT TO BE NAMED OFFICIALLY UNTIL BISHOP'S DEPARTURE).

2. WHEN BAKER NOTED THAT OUR INTEREST IN THIS POSITION AND INTENTION TO SUBMIT CANDIDATES HAD BEEN MADE KNOWN TO WEST AND SAOUMA, FERNANDO STATED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN TOLD OF IT. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT OFFICE OF DIRECTOR HAD SEVERAL D-1 SENIOR ADVISOR POSITIONS,
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(ONE SENIOR ECONOMIST, ONE SENIOR AGRONOMIST, AND AN ADDITIONAL ADVISOR ON GENERAL POLICY ISSUES HE HOPED TO ADD). LAST TWO OF THESE NOW VACANT. QUICKLY REVIEWING THE CANDIDATES, FERNANDO NOTED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN SEENING PERSON WITH EXPERIENCE AS BANK LOAN OFFICER EITHER AS DEP. DIR. OR SENIOR ADVISER BUT RATHER ONE WITH AGRICULTURAL BACKGROUND AND FIELD EXPERI-

ENCE IN DESIGNING AND TESTING PROJECTS. HE FOUND BROWN'S APPLICATION INTERESTING AND ASKED IF HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN BEING INTERVIEWED FOR D-1 SENIOR ADVISOR. BAKER SAID HE WOULD ENQUIRE AND REQUESTED DESCRIPTION OF FUNCTION. FERNANDO DESCRIBED IT AS PERSON WHO WOULD KEEP TRACK OF TECHNICAL WORK OF MISSIONS SENT TO EVALUATE AND DESIGN PROJECT PROPOSALS, WORKING WITH THEM ON RETURN, TO BE SURE THEY WERE APPLYING CONSISTENT TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC STANDARDS TO PROJECT DESIGNES; IN SUM, QUALITY CONTROL OF PROJECTS OF TYPE INVESTMENT CENTER MIGHT BE RECOMMENDING TO BANKS AND IFAD.

3. FERNANDO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN INTERVIEW OF BROWN BY AN INVESTMENT CENTER OFFICER SOON TO TRAVEL T WASHINGTON. BAKER SUGGESTED FERNANDO MIGHT WISH TO CONTACT HIM OR IO/EA KEVIN CARROLL TO SET UP SUCH INTERVIEW.

4. COMMENT: REQUEST IO/EX AND BROWN REACTION TO THIS DEVELOPMENT. HAD TELEGRAPHIC RESUMES OF APPLICATIONS BEEN WIRED SEPT 27, WE MIGHT HAVE HAD A BETTER SHOT BUT THE SENIOR ADVISOR POSITION DESCRIBED COULD BE A KEY ONE IF PLAYED RIGHT. CANNOT JUDGE WHETHER FERNANDO BEING DISINGENUOUS OR WHETHER WEST AND SAOUMA HAD SIMPLY FAILED INTENTIONALLY OR CARELESSLY TO INFORM HIM OF OUR INTEREST.GARDNER

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